REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is supplemental to the Amendment dated December 5, 2003. The present Amendment is being filed merely to correct the format in which the amendment to the specification was presented in the December 5 Amendment. Specifically, the above presentation of the amendment to the specification includes the strike-through of the deleted subject matter.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Paul L. Sharer

Registration No. 36,004 Direct No. (703) 905-2180

PLS/wdw PO Box 10500 McLean, VA 22102 (703) 905-2000 Telephone (703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: December 18, 2003